THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.

Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

VOL. II.—NO. 1. SATURDAY, MARCH 20TH, 1915. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

All donations in money or kind should be addressed to the Financial Secretary of the E.L.F.S. :—

Miss N. L. Smyth,
400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Sunday, Mar. 21st, at 3 p.m.—Victoria Park—Miss M. Wright. Chair: Miss Manicom.
8 p.m.—Bow Women's Hall—Mrs. Parsons, Mr. John Scurr. Chair: Mrs. Bouvier.
8 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall—Miss M. Wright, Mr. E. Duval. Chair: Mrs. Drake.
Monday, Mar. 22nd, 8 p.m.—Poplar Rev. C. Wills.
8 p.m.—Powerscroft Rd.—Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m.—"Peacock"—Miss Feek. Chair: Miss Manicom.
Tuesday, Mar. 23rd, 2.30 p.m.—175 Dalston Lane, N.E.—Mrs. Thompson. Chair: Miss Manicom.
3 p.m.—Bow Women's Hall—Miss Sylvia Pankhurst. Chair: Miss Beamish.
8 p.m.—Limehouse, Burdett Road—Mrs. Bouvier. Chair: Miss Beamish.
8 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall—Miss Feek. Chair: Mrs. Drake.
8 p.m.—53 St. Leonard St.—Mr. Carlton Smith.
Wednesday, Mar. 24th, 8 p.m.—Chrisp St.—Mrs. Drake.
8 p.m.—Ford Road—Mrs. Walker.
Thursday, Mar. 25th, 8 p.m.—124 Barking Road—Mrs. Walker. Chair: Mrs. Parsons.
8 p.m.—175 Dalston Lane—Mr. Kennedy. Chair: Miss Manicom.
Friday, Mar. 26th, 3 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall.—Miss Barry. Chair: Mrs. Bird.
8 p.m.—Canning Town, Beckton Rd.—Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m.—Poplar, Piggott St.—
7—10 p.m.—Bow Women's Hall—Club.
8 p.m.—Stratford, "The Grove"—Mrs. Bouvier.
Sunday, Mar. 28th, 3 p.m.—Hyde Park—Miss Somers. Chair: Mrs. Drake.
8 p.m.—Bow Baths Hall—Miss Georgina Brackenbury, Rev. F. R. Swan. Chair: Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.

To reach Old Ford Road take an Old Ford 'bus (No. 8), which goes via the Marble Arch, Oxford St., the Bank and Liverpool St., or book to Old Ford Station on the North London Railway.

SUFFRAGE CLUBS. Poplar, 20 Railway St., 7 to 10 p.m., Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Bow, 400 Old Ford Road, Fridays 7 to 10.

MOTHERS AND BABIES.

We urgently need subscriptions to help us to pay the heavy milk bill for our centres in Bow, Bromley, Poplar and Canning Town ; also gifts of :

EGGS.

For invalids and babies who are too ill to digest milk, and are given the white of egg beaten up in water.

ARROWROOT, BARLEY & RICE, BORACIC POWDER, BORACIC LINT, VASELINE, ZINC OINTMENT, COD LIVER OIL AND MALT, GLAXO AND VIROL.

We lend necessitous mothers outfits for their babies, for the first months.

FOR BABY.

Four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests and a cot blanket.

FOR MOTHER.

Two nightgowns, a woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets and one pair pillowcases.

Doctor attendances and baby weighing—400 Old Ford Rd., Bow, Mondays 2.30 p.m.; 20 Railway St., Poplar, Mondays 3 p.m.; 53 St. Leonard's St., Thursdays 2.30 p.m.; 14 Butcher's Rd., Canning Town.

Mothers may have the leaflets on baby-feeding by applying at any of the centres.

OUR COST-PRICE RESTAURANTS

400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.
20 Railway Street, Poplar.
53 St. Leonard's Street, Bromley.

Two-course meals 2d. (children 1d.)
Soup 1d. a pint with a piece of bread.

Will you send us a gift of provisions to reduce our bills, which are growing rapidly with the rising prices ?

GIVE THIS PAPER TO A FRIEND.

E.L.F.S. AT THE TOY FAIR.

Visitors to the Toy Fair are agreed that the very best toys are to be found at the East London Federation stall, and that the stall itself is by far the most artistic in the exhibition.

The interior walls of our stall are a soft grey. In the centre is a japanese garden of pale pink almond blossom trees where the japanese children and other toys seem to be playing quite happily. Two British babies are playing with a lamb—not one of those funny little barrel shaped lambs with legs of stick that we have known from our childhood, but a playful babyish lamb with the big frisky clumsy legs that all real lambs have. It bears a striking resemblance to that beautiful drawing of Frederick Shields to illustrate Blake's poem "Little Lamb who made thee?"

Another smaller British baby is clasping a white rabbit, and another sitting up amongst the squirrels looks like one of Maeterlink's babies waiting for the ship of life to carry it into the world. Two little curly headed brown babies are holding hands and looking at each other mischievously. Three very knowing monkeys are climbing about in an orange tree.

The E.L.F.S. flat wooden toys are specially admired. These include birds of many kinds, dragons, squirrels, elephants, poodles, dachshunds, boy scouts, girl guides, territorials, fairies, pigs, countrymen. Belgian peasants—men and women, Belgian boys, Belgian milk-carts drawn by dogs, the Sauveteur Belge, who at Belgian watering places blows a trumpet and throws a rope when one is in danger of being drowned.

By far the most beautiful dolls in the show are the new wax models of boys and girls and baby heads, which the E.L.F.S. has just had prepared. The E.L.F.S. has now two kinds of china headed, and two kinds of wax headed dolls.

OUR FACTORY.

Price lists for our toys, garments and shoes may be had on application to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow.

Help us to produce skilled work at a living wage.

SWEATING on ARMY CONTRACTS.

In the House of Commons on 15th March, Mr. Anderson said that the girls employed at Messrs. Armstrong and Whitworth's at Elswick, "work twelve hours per day with one and a half hour's break for meals, Sundays as well. They are working two shifts at present, and girls are working all night. They have been working three shifts, but the girls were half dead and they found that they had to stop it. Girls of 17 get 8s. a week; girls of 18, 9s. a week; girls of 19, 10s. a week; and girls of 20 11s. a week; and in addition to this there is a bonus which seems largely to be used for speeding up the girls. The average wage is low, and the girls have to put in work at a very high rate of speed. The bonus rate is: Sundays 4½d. an hour; ordinary times 3d. an hour. Some of the girls say they have worked 20 hours at a stretch since the War broke out. Many times they have worked 95 hours a week since the War broke out. If the girls take a Sunday rest there is deducted all the bonus which the girls earn during the week."

PUBLIC MEETING

HIGHBURY HALL,

Friday, March 26th, at 8 p.m.

SPEAKERS:
Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST,
Mr. VICTOR DUVAL Mr. FRANKLIN

Tickets 6d. and 3d.
— Collection for E.L.F.S. Funds —

TURNING OUT THE SOLDIER'S WIFE.

Councillor Turner of the Glasgow Trades Council, speaking in Glasgow last week, instanced one shocking eviction out of many, that of a soldier's wife. The man enlisted, and his employer said that his job would be kept for him during his absence, and his wife and children would not be turned out of their home. The man became physically unfit, was discharged, and the employer refused to give him back his job The man secured work, and being sufficiently recovered rejoined the Army. Then the employer secured an ejection order against the wife. A Territorial Association written to on the matter replied that they had nothing whatever to do with safeguarding the interests of soldiers' wives.

Soldier's wives must look after their interests themselves. Join the "League of Rights."

SAILORS' WIDOWS.

On March 10th, Lord Charles Beresford stated in the House of Commons, that sailors' widows were deprived of their husbands' allotments for an average period of six weeks after widowhood. Dr. Macnamara said that after the end of March a combined weekly payment of separation allowance and allotment will in all cases be paid for 26 weeks after the sailor's death.

MEETING TO FORM A BRANCH OF THE

LEAGUE OF RIGHTS

For Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives and Relatives

WOMEN'S CLUB, NINE ELMS.

Speakers:
Mrs. DESPARD. Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST.
Mr. GEORGE LANSBURY. Mr. FRANK SMITH.

LEAGUE OF RIGHTS

For Soldiers' and Sailors' wives and relatives.

A branch of the League has been formed at Poplar and meetings will be held on Monday evenings at 20 Railway Street, Poplar by permission of the East London Federation of the Suffragettes. For further particulars about the League of Rights please apply to Mrs. George Lansbury, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow. Subscriptions should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer Mrs. H. D. Harben, Chalfont St. Giles, Bucks, or to J. Banks Esq., 6 Campbell Road, Bow. E.

In the House of Commons the other day Colonel Yates said:—"If an officer is killed in defence of his country the pension should be paid to the widow and children as a right and not as an act of grace, as at present."

Quite so. But should not this apply also to the widow of a private ?

AFTER THE WAR.

The 1914 War Society has a project for the settlement on the land of disabled and time-expired soldiers, with their families, after the war. Land is to be acquired and cottages erected, and it appears that vegetable growing will be the main industry. This scheme is being laid before the Government Committee on the Employment of Soldiers. We trust that this means that a Government grant will be forthcoming to finance the initial stages of a scheme of this kind. If the nation is willing to find hundreds of millions for the destructive purposes of warfare it ought to be ready to expend a few millions on re-establishing its soldiers in economic independence after the war is over.

At Lyons's Restaurants women are being engaged instead of men at a very much smaller wage. In Leeds and other provincial towns women are being taken on to replace men as bank clerks at one-half the wage.

WOMEN'S HALL,

400 Old Ford Road, Bow,
Sunday, March 21st, at 8 p.m.

SPEAKERS:
Mrs. PARSONS
Mr. JOHN SCURR.

Chair: Mrs. BOUVIER. MUSIC.

Poplar Women's Hall,

20 RAILWAY STREET,
Sunday, March 21st, at 8 p.m.

SPEAKERS:
Miss M. WRIGHT
Mr. E. DUVAL.

Chair: Mrs. DRAKE. MUSIC.

PRICE LIST

		s	d
JOINTED WOODEN TOYS.			
Pig, Dachshund, Countryman, Common Hen, Bird, without perch, Elephant, Poodle	each	0	10½
Scout Boy (front face)	,,	1	3
,, Girl ,,			
Territorial, Pugilist, Pierrot			
White Duck & 4 Ducklings			
Hen with drooping comb, Smaller Cock			
Coloured Duck & 4 Ducklings			
Scout Boy (side face)	,,	1	6
,, Girl ,,			
Squirrel, Bird, on perch, Larger Cock, Fairy			
Kneeling Boy, on stairs	,,	1	9
Sauveteur Belge, Dragon	,,	2	4½
STUFFED ANIMALS.			
Monkey	,,	6	6
Rabbit, Lamb	,,	5	4
SIGNALLING GAME.			
"Iddy Umpty"	,,	2	4½
Pontoon	,,	4	0
NON-JOINTED (Belgian design).			
Belgian Peasant-woman, ,, Milk-woman, ,, Man	,,	0	10½
,, Soldier	,,	1	6
Large Cat	,,	0	7½
Small ,,	,,	0	5
Dog & Milk-cart	,,	2	4½
Ark, with 24 animals, Sheepfold, with 20 animals	,,	2	8
DOLLS (Rag Dolls).			
Large **"British Baby"**	,,	9	6
Small ,, ,,	,,	6	8
Brown Baby	,,	7	0
Large "Jap Baby"	,,	11	6
Small ,, ,,	,,	6	8
China-headed Dolls	,,	6	8
Larger china-headed Dolls (cheaper quality, ready soon)	,,	3	6
Wax-headed Dolls	,,	4	9
Larger wax-headed Dolls (best quality, painted eyes)	,,	6	8
Do. do. glass eyes	,,	7	6
DOLL'S FURNITURE.			
Bedstead (oak-stained, brass knobs), 12 ins. length	,,	1	9
Table, Sofa, & 4 Chairs—			
Small, cloth	,,	1	6
Medium, cloth	,,	2	4½
Large, cloth	,,	3	6½
Small, velvet	,,	1	9
Medium, velvet	,,	3	4½
Large, velvet	,,	4	6

		£	s	d
DOLL'S CHIPPENDALE FURNITURE.				
Large Suite (wardrobe, washstand, dressing-table, & 2 chairs)	each	6	0	0
Small Suite	,,	3	0	0
Chest of Drawers	,,	2	0	0
Sofa & 4 Chairs	,,	0	18	0
Bed (10½ ins.)	,,	0	17	0
,, (12 ins.)	,,	0	19	0
,, (smaller)	,,	0	13	6
Oval Table, inlaid	,,	0	5	6
,, plain	,,	0	3	6
Suites, upholstered	,,	0	11	0
,, flat seats & backs	,,	0	6	6

WOMEN! JOIN THE

East London Federation of the Suffragettes —

WE NEED YOU!

I wish to become a member of the EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF THE SUFFRAGETTES.

Name .....

Address .....

I enclose 1½d. to cover membership and postage.

I enclose 4s. 4d. for a year's WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.

Name .....

Address .....

TO DISCUSS THE RELIGIOUS ASPECT OF THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT IN RELATION TO WAR AND PEACE.

THREE GREAT MEETINGS

For Men and Women will be held at the

CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER,

On Monday, March 22nd, at 11 a.m. and 2.30 and 6 p.m.

CHAIRMAN: THE REV. W. TEMPLE. Speakers:—

H. W. Nevinson, Esq.	Dr. Henry T. Hodgkin.
The Rev. Richard Roberts.	Miss Zoe Fairfield.
Miss Eglantine Jebb.	The Rt. Rev. The Lord Bishop of Lincoln.
Miss Catherine E. Marshall.	The Rev. E. S. Woods.
The Rev. Dr. Orchard.	Miss Maude Royden.
The Rev. A. H. Gray.	The Rev. Dr. Dearmer.
Mrs. Barbara McKenzie.	Mrs. Bruce Glasier.

Reserved Seats—	s	d	s	d	s	d	s	d
For the 3 Meetings	18	0	12	6	6	0	2	6
For 1 Meeting	7	6	5	0	2	6	1	0

A Limited number of Free Admission Tickets on application.

Programmes and tickets may be had from Miss Lucy Gardner, "The Collegium," 92 St. George's Square, London, S.W. Stamped, addressed envelopes should be sent when applying for tickets.

N.B.—Please send for Programmes for distribution, and speak of this Conference to your friends.

The

Woman's Dreadnought.

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes,

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can be obtained at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. SMITH and SONS, and Messrs. WILLING.

Annual Subscription: Post free, 4s. 4d.

Vol. II. No. 1.—Sat. Mar. 20th, 1915.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service.

HOW TO MEET INDUSTRIAL CONSCRIPTION.

To the women whom they have refused to grant the rights of enfranchised citizens, the Government, through the President of the Board of Trade, has issued an appeal to enlist for War service.

The Women's Societies which the Government has so often flouted are urged to lend their aid in marshalling the volunteers.

Registers of women who are prepared to undertake any kind of paid work, industrial, agricultural, clerical, etc., are to be kept at the Labour Exchanges, and registration forms are being sent out to the women's organisations. Those who register must state their ages and whether they are married, widowed or unmarried; if they have ever done any paid work, and if so, what and when, and in whose employ; if they are free to work whole or part time, or to leave their homes; whether there is any kind of work that they are willing or able to do, and whether they are willing to train for work which they have not previously done.

In view of this appeal, which is being made to women by the Government—appeals by Governments usually tend to become irresistible demands—it is surely time that all the women's organisations, trade union, political, educational and social, should come together to discuss this important matter and formulate their demands to safeguard the position of women of all ranks in the labour army.

The men who signed the Army forms that were sent round to the householders, found themselves called up for service, sometimes much to their surprise. The women who sign their names on the War Service Register will probably find themselves called up too, whether they wish or not. Shall we allow them to go without fair conditions first being assured?

The Government, through Mr. Lloyd George and Lord Kitchener, has announced that it is about to take extensive control of industry.

The Government makes it plain that it is determined that the provisions of munitions of war, both for Great Britain and the Allies, shall absorb all our entire national energies, so that all our people may become part of a great war machine engaged either in fighting, supplying the wherewithal to fight, or in providing necessaries of food, clothing, housing and transport for the soldiers or armament makers.

In order to conciliate the British workmen (who, by their votes, have been made the ultimate arbiters of the nation's destiny, though they scarcely realize their power), Mr. Lloyd George has held conference with the Great Trade Unions which, as yet, are almost entirely controlled by men. The Government has promised that limits shall be set to the profits of employers, and that good wages and fair conditions of labour shall be ensured.

Various increases in wages have been made, and negotiations are taking place in regard to demands for much larger increases. The Trade Union leaders and Labour Members of Parliament occupy a position of grave and anxious responsibility at this time, for on their handling of the situation the position of millions of workers largely depends.

Perhaps an even vaster responsibility rests on the shoulders of women who are leaders of women at this time. As yet, the working women, the sweated drudges of the world, are but poorly organised, and all the women's suffrage and other political and social organisations must lend their aid at this crisis, in securing the best possible terms for the masses of women workers, on whom the future of our race so largely depends.

It is more urgently imperative than ever that every woman who works for her living should join a Trade Union, in order that she may have a strong organisation to protect her interests, and that she may help to protect the interests of other women.

A national conference of women should be called immediately to formulate demands for the regulation of this industrial enlistment of women. Here are some of the demands which would, undoubtedly, be adopted by such a conference:—

(1) As the Government is already by far and away the largest employer of labour in the country, and may soon be almost the sole employer, it is absolutely imperative that *women who are to be enlisted as recruits in the National War Service shall have the Vote at once.*

(2) That fair wages shall be assured to women. *That where a woman is employed on work hitherto done by men she shall receive the wage hitherto paid to men, in addition to any war bonus or increase in wages which might have been paid for the work now, in the case of men employees. That in no case shall an unskilled woman be employed at a lower wage than the current rate to men unskilled labourers.*

(3) The Government has announced its determination to put an end to industrial disputes, and proposes that, where the parties concerned fail to come to an agreement:—

> "The matter shall be referred to an impartial tribunal, nominated by his Majesty's Government, for immediate investigation and report to the Government with a view to a settlement."

The Women's Conference would undoubtedly demand that *women should have strong representation on this tribunal, and that in all disputes in regard to women's employment, a woman of standing and experience, (the nation has many such to draw upon) should be the chairman of the tribunal, or in case of the appointment of a sole arbiter, a woman should be the arbiter of the dispute.*

(4) That proper safeguards in regard to hours, wages, and conditions be arranged in conjunction with representatives of the women concerned, and that no woman shall be compelled to work under conditions which the representative of the organisation to which she belongs, reports to be unsatisfactory.

This is a moment of very vital importance to women, calling for all our energy and resource, all our earnestness, all our solidarity.

Let us band ourselves together—sinking our differences—to build up a position of dignity and security for our sisters, in order that as free citizens they may give their services to the nation willingly and with enthusiasm. E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

In referring to the Women's War Service Registration, Miss Mary Macarthur wisely says:

"I think the Government would have been well-advised, before issuing this appeal, to have consulted representatives of organised workers—men and women. The substitution of women for men owing to the shortage of the latter in any particular trade is a difficult and delicate matter, and the advice and co-operation of the organised workers is essential. The circular may give a false impression of the actual industrial situation. I imagine that it has been drafted with a view to possible eventualities.

"I understand the appeal is made to women not normally wage-earners, and even to women who have not previously been wage earners. There are now 50,000 unemployed women who are normal wage-earners, and I should like an assurance that the absorption of these women has been considered before new, and presumably economically independent women are introduced."

Bradford, of all British towns and cities, has been the pioneer in initiating schemes for maternity and child welfare. It led the way in the feeding of school children, the appointment of school medical officers, and mother and baby clinics. It has now opened a Municipal Maternity Home for nine beds, with an operating theatre. Women doctors hold consultations at the hospital, and a staff of municipal midwives and doctors also attend women in their homes.

The Bradford Municipal Baby Clinic and Children's Hospital is most efficiently equipped. There is an up-to-date dairy plant, comfortable waiting, consultation, dressing, weighing, and recording rooms, and dispensary. There is a large staff of women doctors, nurses, and dispensers. Special infants' foods are given where necessary. A hospital ward with 24 cots is attached to the clinic, in addition to the children's hospital; 700 infant consultations take place weekly, and 500 expectant mothers are fed weekly at seven centres. All this is done by the Municipality.

The Maternity Home was opened on March 15th by Mr. Herbert Samuel, who said:—

> "We have developed to such great perfection the science of destroying life that it has become more and more important to develop and perfect the science of saving life."

This is indeed true. May the Government—may we all—remember it!

Further American news makes it clear that in the following States Votes for Women has been passed through both legislative chambers, and now passes automatically to a referendum vote of the present electors—

New York.	New Jersey.
Massachusetts.	West Virginia.

In the following States, Votes for Women has passed through both legislative chambers, but according to the State Constitution, it must be passed through both chambers in a second legislative session also before it can be submitted to the electors:—

Pennsylvania.	North Dakota.
Iowa.	Tennessee.

Bills for partial Women's Suffrage have been passed in:—

Indiana.	Vermont.

In Arkansas, Votes for Women passed both legislative Houses, but is delayed owing to a rule that only two constitutional amendments may be put to the voters at an election, and two others had been passed already. A Suffrage Bill passed the South Dakota House but was defeated in the Senate. North Dakota passed Votes for Women in both Houses, but the Senate took fright, re-considered, and tabled it, and a two-thirds vote will be necessary to rescue the Bill.

Out of 17 State Legislatures that have discussed Votes for Women this year, 13 have acted favourably.

In Memoriam.

Ursula M. Bright, widow of the late Jacob Bright, who died on March 14th, at the age of 80, was one of the early Suffrage pioneers. With Mrs. Elmy (then Miss Wolstenholme), Dr. Pankhurst, and others, she helped to form the first of the Women's Suffrage societies—that of Manchester—in 1865.

She was afterwards secretary of the Married Woman's Property Committee, and it was very largely due to her great efforts that the Married Woman's Property Act of 1882 was carried into law.

She was active in all the movements of her time for securing to women wider opportunities for development and greater freedom. She has earned the deep gratitude of the women of a younger generation, who are benefiting by the conquests which she and her co-workers made for us in the past.

WALTER CRANE.

Walter Crane will ever be held in grateful remembrance by pioneer movements for the uplift of humanity, for many and many are the beautiful designs that he created and gave to the people's cause. Even the E.L.F.S. has had special occasion to thank him for a gift of prints from his children's books, to be made into jig-saw puzzles, in the toy factory. Not the least precious, that wonderful band of socialist poet artists that glorified the nineteenth century, he has been the inspiration and example of many a young artist who has sought to devote his or her art to the service of the commonweal.

BREAKING THE TRUCE.

The "Political Truce" which has been observed to a certain extent during the War by the various parties in the House was broken in the House of Lords on March 17th, when the Government was defeated by 47 votes to 26. This was on a motion by Lord Macdonald that an address be presented to the King praying him to withold his consent during the War from a Proclamation promulgated by the Government creating an executive council for the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh. He said that this was a highly controversial subject and that therefore the Government ought not to have brought it forward at this time. As the Government refused to agree that the question should be postponed and raised again after the War, a division was persisted in with the result given above.

Lord Curzon, in protesting that this was a controversial issue, said that it had been raised apparently on the plea that "like female suffrage and the Channel Tunnel it must come some day."

We are glad of the admission from so obstinate an anti-suffragist as Lord Curzon that Votes for Women *must* come some day, and we would call the attention of women to the fact that all sorts of legislation, quite unconnected with the convenience of other sections is being passed through Parliament, and that some sort of settlement is being arrived at in regard to all the big political disputes that have been on the political horizon during recent years. Shall Votes for Women alone be delayed.

GIRL AEROPLANE WORKERS DIE.

On March 11th, Mr. Rowlands called attention to the fact that two girls employed at the Army aeroplane works at Crayford had died this year from dope poisoning, caused by fumes from the varnish with which the girls paint the aeroplanes.

When the first case occurred the Home Secretary stated a new system of ventilation had been installed, which had removed all possible danger. But now another death has occurred. In December, when the girls at Crayford were medically examined, it was found that 43 of them were affected by the fumes.

This is a serious matter.

On February 24th, the Under-Secretary of State for War stated in the House of Commons that £13,000 had been spent on Donnington Hall, in order to furnish and fit it to accommodate interned German officers.

This seems a grossly extravagant sum. Who is the contractor who has been making a good thing out of it?

When will the Government protect the People's Food ?

ENORMOUS PROFITS.

Enormous profits are being made by firms engaged in the provision trade. Messrs. Joseph Travers and Sons of London have just published their balance sheet, which shows that the profits made during the last three years were as follows:—

1912-13	1913-14	1914-15
£10,504	£41,179	£101,098

A dividend of 10 per cent. has been paid, as against 5 per cent. in 1912-13; but the directors have devoted the larger part of the profit to strengthening the company's position. These figures clearly show the need for Government control of the food supply.

Another argument for Government action in regard to high prices lies in the fact that the Government is responsible in a large measure. The "law of supply and demand," with which the Cabinet expresses itself so loath to interfere, has already been interfered with by Government action. In the ordinary way high prices would involve such a falling off in demand that it would no longer be profitable to ask extortionate prices for foodstuffs. This is in fact the chief circumstance which limits prices at ordinary times. Now that the Government is feeding hundreds of thousands of the workers at the taxpayers' expense, the "law of supply and demand" ceases to operate, because the trader knows that, however high his prices, the troops will continue to be fed, and the only limit to his cupidity is the fear that he might drive the Government to take the drastic step of commandeering supplies—a step which he is confident will not be taken until prices are considerably higher than they are at present.

The sacred "law of supply and demand" having been interfered with already, the Government ought to adjust the balance either by entering the market as a buyer or by legislative measures.

IF INDIGO, WHY NOT WHEAT?

The Board of Trade announce that in order to mitigate the effects of the dearth of indigo for dyeing purposes caused by the present War, and also to prevent any speculative holding up of natural indigo, the Government have acquired the greater part of the crop of natural indigo now coming forward for the use of dye-users in the United Kingdom.

Mr. B. Williams, the Secretary of the Co-operative Union (Southern Section), in a letter to the *Daily News* asks:—"If the Government can mitigate the effects of the dearth of indigo for dyeing purposes, and also prevent any speculative holding up of natural indigo, why not apply precisely the same principle to the case of wheat and other food supplies?"

COAL.

Mr. J. P. Hougton, chairman of the Mansfield Railway Company, who is also a coalowner, is of opinion that the way to stop the coal famine is for the Government to suspend the export of coal to neutral countries. Whether or not this is the wisest course to pursue, the production and price of coal is certainly one which the Government has no excuse for not controlling since we do not depend on other countries for our supply. When will the Government move in the matter?

On March 10th Mr. Asquith again refused, on behalf of the Government, to grant an extra 1s. a week to old age pensioners, in view of the high cost of living. He said, "I am informed that the Local Government Board have no evidence that pensioners are being forced to apply for Poor Law Relief."

Old age pensioners have believed hitherto that they are not eligible for Poor Law Relief, but Mr. Asquith's words make it imperative that they should demand it, when they are in need, even should they be refused.

But surely Mr. Asquith must know that the old age pensioners are suffering grievously at the present time.

When will his Government take control of the food supplies?

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT CONTROLS FOOD SUPPLY.

In Parliament on March 15th Mr. Anderson stated that Mr. Holman, the Labour Prime Minister in New South Wales, in an address to the Trades and Labour Council, had outlined the Government's proposal for the cheapening and better regulation of food supply. The Government proposed to create a market authority which would have control of the whole food supply of Sydney, in connection with the Imperial Military Supplies. Mr. Holman said the Government would, in some three weeks' time, be killing sheep, and shipping them direct, no middlemen being employed, and facilities would be provided for the better supply of fresh provisions, and for the rapid transport of food and vegetables to the metropolis. Mr. Hall, the Minister of Justice, outlined a scheme for the establishment of a State bread trust for the benefit of the people which would result in the reduction by a penny a loaf on the present price of bread.

The German Government has taken over all wool, even to that which is still on the sheep's backs, and no private sales may now take place in Germany.

WOMEN AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Women can now be elected to county and borough councils, by the "County and Borough Councils (Qualification) Act, 1914." But the Act contains a clause preventing women from being J.P.'s, though elected chairman of the county council or mayor of the borough. This disability ought immediately to be removed. The *Daily Chronicle* heads a paragraph on the subject: "Why not Women J.P.'s?" There is certainly nothing but prejudice against it; in its favour there are a thousand arguments.

NEED FOR WOMEN ON JURIES.

Recently, three poor women were killed and six injured by the collapsing of the brick wall, which was being built by a contractor, S. B. Russell, on the fish-curing premises of Donald Sinclair, in Old Ford Road, Aberdeen, behind the packing room in which the women were at work. As it fell, the wall knocked down the wall of the packing room, the roof of which fell in.

The wall that fell was 24 feet high and nine inches thick. It was built of old bricks, on ground which is called "made up," being the old bed of the Dee filled up, and, therefore, specially liable to collapse.

The plans for the wall had been refused by the Harbour Commissioners, whose consent in writing was necessary. Yet the building was proceeded with without the Harbour Engineer being notified. The plans had previously been passed by the Town Council, but Mr. John Gordon, the Borough Surveyor, testified at the Sheriff Court inquiry that the wall actually erected did not correspond with the plans passed by the Council, the couples being a departure from the plans, and tending to the insecurity of the wall, and the cross beams being left out.

The Borough Surveyor testified further that the bricks were old, and not properly cleaned, and of irregular shape, so that the joints had to be filled in with lime. Also that the building of the wall ought not to have been carried on during such rainy weather. He said that no nine inch wall should be built without supports.

Mr. Souter, an Inspector of Works, reported that the lower part of the wall was too thin for its height, and that the bricks were of irregular size, that the mortar was saturated with water, and that there was no trace of cement, which the builder was supposed to be using, in the lime.

Mr. Reid, another Inspector of Works, agreed that the wall was too thin, and there was "no margin of safety."

Councillor R. G. Wilson, an architect, who appeared to testify to Mr. Russell's "excellence" as a builder, and to the fact that he had carried out £12,000 worth of brickwork during the past few years, admitted that a wall so thin as the one that collapsed is "pretty risky," and that the piers ought to have been stronger.

In spite of this evidence the jury, after retiring for about five minutes, declared that the falling of the wall was accidental!

Surely the public of Aberdeen, the injured women, and the relatives of those who were killed must be asking "who were the members of this jury?"

Our jury system urgently needs to be made more democratic. At present juries are largely composed of business men, who all know each other, and therefore find it difficult to treat each other impartially. Women are needed on juries.

WELL DONE NORWAY!

In our issue of February 20th we headed an article by Miss Fredrikke Mœrck, on the Norwegian Bill for the protection of illegitimate children —"Well Done Denmark." This was a mistake, as the text of the article must have shown to our readers. Miss Mœrck has now written to tell us that the Bill, which was introduced by Mr. Castberg, has passed successfully through the Norwegian Parliament. Therefore illegitimate children in Norway are now entitled to bear the name of their father, to inherit from him, and to claim maintenance from him, in accordance with his position, on equal terms with his legitimate children. The new Act also makes it encumbent upon the man to care for the mother of his child during the time in which she is incapacitated from work.

BOY LABOUR.

The father of a boy scout, employed at the War Office, has been fined half-a-crown for failing to send the boy to school. Mr. Alderidge, for the Education Authority remarked: "He is paid for what he does, and is keeping an older boy out of a situation." The War Office in this case is surely as much to blame as the boy's father. But in any case if this is the view of the Education Authority in London, why are the same principles not enforced in rural areas? There, it is true, boys of school age are not necessarily keeping out older boys, but they are undoubtedly keeping wages down by providing the farmer with cheap labour and the evil is both greater and more widespread.

THE COST OF WAR.

The cost of the War for the first eight months is estimated roughly at three hundred and sixty two million pounds. Such a sum, spent on education, rural and urban housing, and the thousand and one things in which reform is admitted on all hands to be urgently needed, and where only the cost is said to bar the way, would revolutionise the position of the industrial classes, and confer inestimable benefits on the country at large. Why is it that men are ready to spend such an enormous sum on destruction and refuse it for productive activities? Is it not time that women were consulted about the spending of the Nation's money?

It is announced in the Press that Bryant and Mays have given a War bonus to their employees. The mother of one of the girls employed by this firm has written to us without giving her address. We should like to ask her for further details if she will please communicate with us again.

BOW BATHS HALL

ROMAN ROAD. (No. 8 Bus.)

Sunday, March 28th, 1915.

Miss GEORGINA BRACKENBURY.

Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST.

— MUSIC. —

SEX ANTAGONISM.

It has been said that women are *creating* sex antagonism; that women are becoming antagonistic to men.

The statement is quite untrue. Women are too true to the instinct of life to be guilty of anything so calculated to interfere with what Bernard Shaw calls the life force.

That there is sex antagonism is quite indisputable, but women are not creating it; they are calling attention to the evil in order that something may be done to check its further growth and manifestations.

Thinking women resent, hate the antagonism shown by men towards women, and that it has been manifest since the very early stages of the race's development is quite undeniable. It is apparent in the fact that man first took woman by physical force and ended by making laws to keep her subject.

If man held woman his equal would he deny all rights and enforce loyalty? This is the treatment freemen mete out to slaves, not equals.

If man were not antagonistic to woman could he allow her to be the drudge some wives are? Would greater advantage be taken of women than men in the industrial world? Women almost invariably do the inferior work, but they are paid out of all proportion even to the quality of the work; the excuse for this is the cowardly and lying one of inferiority. Women are not *innately* inferior to men, they are merely different, with a difference mainly due to training and ages of subjection. It is to be deplored that the lie of women's inferiority to men has been reiterated for so long and so often that women themselves have come to believe in it. They have been content to be drudges, content to be mere washers of dishes, content to do the inferior work at grossly inferior pay, or for no pay at all. For ages women have borne the evils of sex antagonism and been silent. For centuries, in order to fulfil her natural function of motherhood, woman has remained a man's slave. She has ached so for love and comradeship, been so true to the instincts of life that she has suffered immeasurable pain and injustice, and degradation, to obtain even the semblance of love.

Sex antagonism! Rich and strong organisations of men prevent women from practising at the Bar, and from entering the faculty of theology. Our War Office authorities have refused medical women for service on the battlefield. Men pass laws to support these ideas, and men prevent their being repealed. Men trade unionists decide that women shall not have equal pay for equal work. Men legislators deny women the right of citizenship. In some professions men have decided that a married woman may not enter. A man may get a divorce for adultery but a woman must prove cruelty in addition. These instances might be multiplied a hundredfold if anything more were necessary to prove man's antagonism to woman. Men fear to have women free, or to give them equal opportunities with themselves. It is the higher paid professions and the places of honour that men are most determined to keep women out of. Men don't mind women working on the pit bank, in the poisonous trades that breed potter's rot and phthisis, but they will stoop to any meanness, go to any lengths, to keep woman out of some of the best positions.

Women are different from men because a totally different standard has been fixed (by man) for them. Once woman has beaten down the existing sex antagonism and compelled man to realise in woman his intellectual equal, when men and women treat each other as human beings, the ghost of woman's inferiority will be laid, and we shall have the harmony we women so ardently desire.

BESSIE WARD.

Women do not work for less than a man's pay. Before you enlist for war service demand the vote!

DISTRICT REPORTS.

BOW.

A very large crowd listened to our speakers on Sunday afternoon. In the evening Mr. Sorensen gave an interesting lecture in Bow Baths, which was much enjoyed by those present.

Members please note that Miss Pankhurst is speaking at our meeting on Tuesday afternoon in the Women's Hall.

It has been decided to hold an "At Home" in connection with the Bow Suffrage Club. It will take place some time after Easter, the date will be announced later.

Volunteers are asked for to sell papers and collect outside Hyde Park every Sunday afternoon.

BROMLEY.

Joint Hon. Secretaries:
Mrs. McCheyne & Mrs. Mantle,
53 St. Leonard Street.

Miss Chesley read a most interesting paper on "Suffrage in the United States," which was greatly appreciated. Mrs. Tollon assisted by taking the chair.

Will members please help to circulate the *Dreadnought* by selling a few extra copies each week. Miss Pankhurst is coming on the 23rd, so let us have an extra big attendance.

POPLAR.

The Women's Hall, 20 Railway St.
Organiser: Mrs. Drake.

Our thanks to Mrs. Cressall, Mr. Broom and Mr. Peek for taking the chair on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, when good meetings were held. Speakers—Mrs. Davies and Mrs. Walker.

Our Restaurant continues to be appreciated, so much so that a collection of 4s. 7d. was made by Mrs. Neuss amongst those who have their dinners there. Miss Hicks' Speakers' class will commence on Monday, April 26th; please make up your minds to take advantage of this opportunity.

Please do not forget the Sunday evening meeting this week. Refreshments will be on sale and the speakers are good—Miss Wright and Mr. E. Duval. Music.

Dreadnoughts sold, week ending Mar. 13—128.

Collected—Mrs. Bird 13s. 7½d.; Miss Lagsding 8s. 7½d.; Miss Morley 2s. 9d.; In the Restaurant—Mrs. Neuss 4s. 7d.

SOUTH WEST HAM.

Centre for Tidal Basin and Custom House—55 Fife Road, Tidal Basin.
Hon. Sec.—Mrs. Daisy Parsons, 94 Ravenscroft Road.

Meeting on Monday was addressed by Miss Manicom and Mr. J. C. Rowe, and on Thursday we were interested in a speech by Miss Marguerite Fedden, and three new members were welcomed. Now members please hurry up with your March subcriptions so that we can keep out of debt. Our Social is to be March 27th, at 7.30 p.m. at Holy Trinity Schoolroom, Barking Road. It is hoped that as many as possible will come themselves and sell tickets to others. There will be dancing also. Please give in your names for *work* on that evening, either to Secretary or to Mrs. Millo. Will some members sell tickets at their work, to encourage their friends to be interested in Votes for Women?

OTHER SOCIETIES.

R. S. P. U.

Hon. Sec.—J. W. Bonarius, 89 Wyke Road.

R.S.P.U. meets every Tuesday, 400 Old Ford Road, 8 p.m. New members welcomed. Entrance fee 3d., contributions 1d. per week. Will any friend send to the Women's Hall, Railway Street, Poplar, a few sacks of stable manure for small vegetable plot at rear, which is being worked by the members of the R.S.P.U. who will be very thankful for same.

A very successful Social was held on 13th March, by which £1 12s. 5d. was raised for the E.L.F.S. Milk fund. Thanks to the Bow Concert Trio and other friends for providing the concert.

NORTH LONDON M.P.U.

Hon. Sec.: Mr. H. G. Everett.
c/o Mr. Innes, 31 Balmes Road, Southgate Road.

Members and sympathisers asked to combine to make our meeting in Highbury Hall, Highbury Place, Friday, March 26th, at 8 p.m., a big success. Speakers: Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mr. V. D. Duval, and Mr. H. G. Everett. Chair: Mr. S. Franklin. Tickets 6d. and 3d. There will also be a few free seats. Secretary will sell or send, on sale or return, tickets to any supporters who will write to the above address. Collection will be taken on behalf of the East London Federation of Suffragettes.

SOCIAL

IN AID OF

E.L.F.S. RELIEF WORK.

HOLY TRINITY SCHOOLROOM,

Barking Road, Canning Town.

SATURDAY, March 27th, 7.30 p.m.

Middlesborough and District Women's Council have passed a resolution stating that they view with alarm the great increase in the price of commodities, and demand that representative women shall sit on any committee appointed to deal with the matter.

WHO BEARS THE BURDENS OF THE WAR?

The present War is a rude object lesson for the working classes. It is terrible to those who are directly affected, and who are taking an active part in the trenches. But it is cruel also to those who are losing their means of livelihood by resultant general economic crisis. Although Switzerland is neutral, the sacrifices and burdens which the War has forced on the working classes are great, and here, once more, we see that united national interests are only fictitious.

In our competitive century no united interests exist. The profit of one is the loss of the other, and in the struggle for existence the weaker is the most affected.

The War has had a vast effect on the working classes in Switzerland. Switzerland is renowned for the manufacture of luxuries, and these industries have been nearly ruined. The export of Swiss textile manufactures amounts to the sum of 500 or 600 million francs yearly, and nearly 800,000 people earn their living by this industry. Further, 120,000 people in Switzerland make a living by watch-making, of which industry the yearly export yields the sum of a hundred and fifty million francs. Both these industries have been severely affected by the War.

In many factories all workers have been dismissed; in others the wages have been considerably reduced; and but few are working normally. The employees have been forced to work for half their wages, to save themselves from being thrown out of employment altogether at such a critical time.

In many cases, though the employers are well aware of the desperate position of the working classes, they have made capital out of the people's misery by reducing wages unnecessarily. They are able to do this with impunity, for no one can force manufacturers to produce more goods than the markets require.

Capitalists do not produce goods in order to employ workers, but for their own profit, for this is the rule of the competitive world in which we live. The interests of the capitalists and those of the workers are opposed, and whilst, in such critical times as these, the capitalist may lose his profit, the workers lose their existence. The women workers in Switzerland, especially, have lost the possibility of earning their living, and the reduced wages of their husbands are not sufficient to meet household expenses.

Statistics made from the budgets of hundreds of working families in Switzerland prove that, even in normal times, the wages of men are not sufficient to cover household expenses, and now the unemployment of women increases the misery in such homes. The statistics of the of the Swiss Metal-workers' Trade Union state that 37,912 workers are losing daily 192,008 francs. These figures give some idea of the enormous burdens placed on the working classes, especially the women, by this War.

C. Herchbergova.

WHERE WOMEN VOTE.

Mrs. Cressall, one of our Poplar members, sends the following interesting extract from a letter from a friend who has settled in Melbourne, Australia:—

"One gets such freedom here—so different to England. You can say and do what you like; in fact, mistress and maid go out together, and you would have a job to tell the maid from the mistress. That's what I like—the freedom. Then, no wage is less than £2 5s. or £2 10s. a week. Certainly things are dearer, but one can live. In fact, nearly all the friends we know have their own houses and think nothing of it. I have not seen what one could call poverty in Melbourne—people seem to get a chance . . . . . Nellie, how would you like to be fetched in a taxi to vote like the women here?"

WOMEN'S EXHIBITION IN CAXTON HALL.

The E.L.F.S. is organising a great women's exhibition to be held in Caxton Hall, on Monday and Tuesday, 10th and 11th May.

The exhibits will include:—

Women's Labour Exhibit.

Sweated Industries Section arranged by Dr. Tchaykovsky, in which brushmakers, matchbox-makers, garment-makers and others may be seen at their accustomed work.

Toy-making Industry on Reform lines in which workers will be seen in the various processes in the making of wooden toys, stuffed toys, dolls, etc. Toys and garments made in the East London Toy Factory will be on sale.

Food Prices Exhibit arranged by Miss Margaretta Hicks of the Joint Food Supply Committee, showing how the increased cost of living works out in actual materials.

International Suffrage Exhibit arranged by the International Women's Suffrage Shop, in which charts and maps showing the progress of Woman Suffrage all over the world will be displayed, and literature will be on sale dealing with the Woman's Movement all over the world.

A large number of Suffrage Societies will have stalls, at which they will sell their own literature.

Speeches on various aspects of the Suffrage movement will be made by well known speakers and representatives of the various Suffrage Societies.

Refreshments arranged by Mrs. Sadd Brown.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

General Fund.—Collection Poplar Meeting 5.1, Miss E Barfield 5.0.

For Milk and General Distress.—Mrs Rufus Isaacs 15.0.0, Miss Beck 12.0.0 (1.0.0 weekly for 12 weeks), Anon (fortnightly) 6.0.0, Mrs Yeoman 3.0.0, Jas. Barnes, Esq. 2.1.10, Dr. Percival Hartley 2.1.4, The Misses Collier (monthly) 2.0.0, J Gliksten, Esq. (monthly) 2.0.0, Mrs Williams (South Africa) 2.0.0, Prof. G W Thane 2.0.0, Mrs Charles Colbech 2.0.0, Per Mrs Fox Strangways 1.2.0, Mrs Perrin 1.1.0, W Mansell, Esq. 1.1.0, Hon Mrs Davey 1.0.0, Miss D Moggridge 1.0.0, Miss E Day-Lewis 1.0.0, Lady Jenkinson 1.0.0, Mrs Bevan (monthly 10.0) 1.0.0, Miss L C Lowe 1.0.0, Misses Gliksten (monthly) 1.0.0, Dr. H Wilson 1.0.0, Cyril E Bressey, Esq. 15.0, Miss E Barnett 15.0, Miss Fox 10.6, Anon, Malta 10.1, Miss Yeoman (weekly) 10.0, Miss M A Stevens (monthly) 10.0, Wm. Holmes, Esq. 10.0, Miss F Toulmin-Smith 10.0.0, Miss D H Jones 10.0, Per Miss R Ford 10.0, Joseph Collyer, Esq. 10.0, F E Thompson, Esq. 10.0, Alfred Geidt, Esq. 10.0, Miss Lowy 5.0, Mr Young 5.0, Miss D L Dubock (2.6 monthly) 5.0, Mrs E A Dyer 5.0, Miss Pearce 5.0, Dr. Alice Johnson 5.0, Miss M Neele 5.0, Miss G C Jefferies 5.0, Miss Katharine Byles 5.0, Mrs Dyson 5.0, Miss M Woodcock 5.0, Miss Sarah Hockey 5.0, Mrs Appleyard 5.0, Miss Mole 5.0, Miss A Oak 5.0, Mrs Winterne 4.0, Miss E Crabb 3.6, Mrs Bruton 3.0, Miss Lee 2.6, Mrs Granger's Women's Club (monthly) 2.6, Working Woman (London) 2.6, Miss W Holdoin 2.6, Per Miss V Walker 2.0, Miss Mackenzie-Kennedy 2.6, H Greggans, Esq. 2.6, "Parents of Four" 2.6, Miss N Swanson 2.6, A Woman Worker (monthly) 2.6, Mr Hearsay 2.0, Mr and Mrs Beard 2.0, Quebec Adult School, per Miss E M Ellis 2.0, Mrs Ritson 2.0, Miss I Jones (weekly) 2.0, Anon 2.0, Miss Broadhurst 1.8, Mrs Tredget 1.0, Mrs Powles (weekly) 1.0, Miss Hudson (for Hackney office furniture) 10.0.

Collections.—At Home—Mrs Waldorf Astor 15.0.0, Cafe Chantant—Caxton Hall 19.6, Miss Helsby 16.5¾, Mrs Bird 13.7½, Bow Baths 11.9, Mrs Bird 9.2, Miss Lagsding 8.7½, Mrs Page 8.6½, Mrs Drake 8.3, Miss Lagsding 7.8½, Mrs McCheyne 7.1½, Ruby Crabb 4.11½, Mrs Neuss 4.7, Miss Morley 2.9, Hyde Park 1.4½, Poplar Meeting 10½.

Collections for Club and Office Furniture.—Canning Town 17.0, Hackney 8.4, Bow 2.0.

Clothes, etc.—20 cases of clothing from the British Dominions Women's Suffrage Union in Tasmania, Mrs L Palmer, Mrs Clarke, Miss Mary Hoy, Miss Sharpe, The Principal of the L.C.C. Day Training College, Mrs John Clarke, Miss M Morgan-Jones, Mrs Canning, Mrs Parker, Mme. G S Watteau, Mrs Harverson, Mrs Powles, Mrs Roberts, Mrs V Jones, Mrs Mullins, Miss M F Hunt, Miss A Alford, Mrs White, Mr and Mrs C E Ball, Four W.S.P.U. Members, Baby Lovers' Club, Miss K Monk, Worthing W.S.P.U. members—per Mrs Tarrant.

At the request of the local Trades and Labour Council and Labour League, the Mayor of Bath called a meeting of citizens to consider the advances in the cost of food and other necessaries of life, and at this meeting a resolution was passed calling on the Government to fix minimum prices for bread and coal and to take control of the means of transport.

VISIT TO A WORKHOUSE.

By Mrs. Drake.

I visited a workhouse the other day. It is generally considered by those who know to be one of the best of its kind. Everything was beautifully clean. I asked who kept it so and was told it was the inmates. It all seemed to me to be a monument to labour, proving what the poor people are capable of when rightly directed.

The matron, with her splendid capabilities of managing, made one feel quite proud to be a woman.

She had received training as a nurse, and spoke of the inmates as patients: as she said, they really were to her. All the time she has been at the workhouse (nine years I believe) she has worked to improve things for the benefit of the humanity under her care, and has succeeded greatly.

The workhouse inmates number nearly 1,200 people, hardly any of whom are able-bodied, and there are about 300 more men than women.

Going through the Old Ladies' rooms I felt very sad indeed, because I thought "these are nearly all somebody's mothers and should be honoured guests, and not 'paupers.'" It is true that they are well cared for, but it is a disgrace to our nation that they should be called paupers; that word means so much to the poor.

I entered into conversation with a man who was injured in the spine in the South African war. He seemed to be looked up to by all, because he was very clever at painting. He took a great interest in the War, giving his opinion on the fight in the Dardanelles. He was painting one of the ships engaged there whilst I stood talking to him. I think a good many of our intending recruits would think twice if they had seen him, and realised that this was all that a "grateful country" had done for him.

Then the little children; I saw about 30 together, and I imagined a mother visiting her little one, and going away heartbroken at having to leave it there. Even if they are not married, the mothers of those children feel just as others do.

All the workhouse inmates are prisoners, however comfortable they are made.

I asked the matron why the authorities provide baths for *these* people, who are quite destitute, and give them every opportunity of being clean, and yet cannot let self-supporting people who pay rent outside, have decent homes to live in. It all seems so topsy-turvy—when you can pay they will not make the landlords build something fit to live in; yet, when you cannot pay, or go mad, you can have a beautiful lunatic asylum to live in rent free! The matron answered that it is because the people who make the laws have no sense of what is required. In her opinion, every home should have its own bathroom, as she is sure that people would be cleaner if they could.

Thinking of these things made me realise again, as I have always thought, that the biggest crime of all is poverty. Whatever one does wrong, if there is plenty of money that will cover it, under this present system. Let us hope that woman soon will have the power of the Vote so that she can re-adjust things, and give the poor and weak a better chance.

UNKNOWN.

They dubbed her queer, and laughed as she
passed by,
And knew that she was different in some way,
But still she held her little nook, serene,
And wore just what she would, and had her say.
She never flinched at speaking out her
thoughts,
Nor ever hated them for scoff and jest,
But took the name of "odd" as if a crown—
A royal pride within her humble breast.
No numbers to support her, all alone
She set her face against accepted creeds
Because she deemed it right, and them too
weak
And old and useless like long-withered reeds.
Her grave is lost beneath the hiding grass:
Her name is graven not on crumbling stone,
But burns immortal 'midst the pioneers,
Although she lived, and fought, and died
unknown.
The famous fields that call Titanic souls
Know nothing nobler—one neglected spot
She toiled and suffered in, with none to cheer,
And never cared that she would be forgot.

Ethel Carnie.

Girls are beginning to take the place of boys at Smith's bookstalls. We understand that their wages and hours are the same as those of the boys, also that they do their work "as well or better."

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